

Devotional and Selections

EVENTIDE.

Before a window looking towards the west,
A woman sits with babe upon her knees.
'Tis evening and the weary world seeks rest,
And homeward fly the birds and droning bees.

The glorious colors in the sky depart,
And in their place the pastel shades appear;
The woman folds the baby to her breast
And croons this little song into its ear.

"Sleep, baby sleep, the night was made for rest,
And tenderly thy mother's arms enfold.
There is no cradle like thy mother's breast
Though it were lined with down or made of gold."

"Sleep, baby sleep, until the day returns;
Nothing shall harm or take thee unawares,
Thy mother watches while the taper burns.
And to HIS keeping trusts thy future years."

—John Richard Moreland.

THE OLD GOSPEL.

The world needs the same old gospel today, for Christ anticipated the needs of all ages and of all conditions of people. He came to deal with sin and with life. Sin today is the sin of all ages. It is a disease of the heart. It is estrangement from God, it is rebellion against the divine will, and it is alienation from righteousness. It is the purpose of the gospel to cure the heart of its moral and spiritual sickness, to bring men back into loyalty to God and to make them subject to the divine law. Nothing will do this like the old-time gospel of repentance, faith and consecration. Men must be made sensible of their sins, their consciences must be aroused, and their natures cleansed, the old gospel alone can accomplish these results. Do not understand us to decry a wide range of study for the minister. He needs to keep abreast of the progress of thought in all its departments of discovery and development. And he needs to understand the principles of biblical criticism and to know the trend of speculative investigations. And he is at liberty to draw upon his knowledge of these matters for whatever of help they may afford him. But he is not to preach these things to his people, or to carry his processes of studying them into his pulpit. They are the mere shavings of his work-shop, but he is to take nothing but the finished product into his pulpit deliverances. Christ and him crucified, sin and its hatefulness in the sight of God, a life of righteousness and the assurance of the Spirit—these are the fundamental elements of true preaching. And the fruits of spiritual life alone follow in the wake of this sort of pulpit work. "Preach the word," was Paul's exhortation to Timothy, and it was sound advice to the ministry of our own day and generation.—Texas Christian Advocate.

It is unwise for us to try to hurry God. We ask for guidance, and because it does not come before we have ceased asking, we distrust God. This is not wise. The slowness of God is the safety of men.—Associate Reformed Presbyterian.

ROLL THE STONE YOU CAN NOT DRAG.

I saw some men building a stone wall the other day, and they were putting into it some enormous stones that they wanted to get out of the driveway to the house. Some of them were so large that a pair of strong horses were unable to drag them. When they found that this was the case, the man in charge, without being in the least sense defeated, hitched the chain around the rock in such a way that, instead of dragging it, would roll it over. While the horses were not strong enough to drag the stone, they could roll it over very easily; and so they rolled it over and over again until they got it into its place.

There is a good lesson in that. Some people do all the work of life in the hardest way. If they can't drag the stones of difficulty, then they leave them and give up as defeated. But that is not wise, for among our daily trials and burdens of life, as well as among the rocks on the New England side hills, there is many a stone too big to drag that can be rolled into a place of service.—Louis Albert Banks.

THE GLORY OF GOD.

God's glory will be increased the more we develop according to his purpose. Those glorify him the most who are working most efficiently according to his design. God has set us in the world; he has established the course of nature, in the midst of which we are moving, and his glory is accomplished the more we fulfill his purpose and carry on the work to which he has called us. If we are to aim at this one object of glorifying God and doing his will, we must each aim at one particular way, according to the particular gift and character and endowments he has bestowed upon us. Let each put before himself the fact that he has a particular calling to which he has been directed by God, and let him fulfill that calling to the best of his ability.—Selected.

GOING BEYOND THE TITHE.

We say sometimes that the true problems of the Church are men and money. These two agree in the one problem of consecration. It underlies both. When consecration is absent neither men nor money are present. Whoever can solve the problem of consecration will have solved the resultant problems of men in the pulpit and money to meet the bills.

Much is said about the tithe. Unquestionably, the church where all the members tithe is in far better condition every way than the average church in the country. The tithe is the minimum which belongs to the Lord. In some way the Lord isn't getting the very least that should be given to him. The least is the tithe and he is not getting that. But there are men who should not stop with paying to God one-tenth of their income. Some ought to give two-tenths, and some three, and some six, and some ought to give everything they make to the furtherance of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the carrying on of works of charity and mercy.

Men are trying to make money to put into their business. Why should not more Christians set before them the task of making money for the Lord? A few have done this most worthy of all things. There are thousands of men that ought to give the Lord every